

**Question for written answer E-011182/2012**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Ioan Mircea Paşcu (S&D)**

**Subject:** Use of European funds for cross-border cooperation between Romania and Hungary

Some of the European funds allocated to the project 'Legendele sătmărene' / 'Legends of Szatmár' LESZ HURO/0901 under the Hungary-Romania cross-border cooperation programme 2007-2013 have been used to promote a revisionist, anti-European message which distorts history. The ERDF funds allocated to the organisations 'Szatmár Leader Közhaszsnú Egyesület' in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hungary (EUR 79 580.74 ) and the Asociației Culturale Nagykároly és Vidéke in Carei, Romania (EUR 44 705.44) between 1 October 2010 and 31 March 2012 have been used to create a website tracing the legends of Szatmár (<http://www.szatmarilegendak.hu>) and to publish a number of information brochures and tourist guides with the same title, in Romanian, Hungarian, English and German. These brochures were written and printed in Hungary by the Hungarian non-governmental organisation which coordinated the project. The sections on history and local culture in both the website and the brochures, which were financed using European funds, follow a generally hostile approach which misrepresents the historical facts, makes pejorative and offensive value judgements against both Romanians (who are described as primitive) and Swabians, and implicitly incites inter-ethnic tension.

1. The distortion of historical facts for political purposes is an extremely sensitive issue in this region. It is also important to note the positive contribution made by cooperation programmes between governments, citizens and civil society organisations in Romania and Hungary, with support from the European Union. In this light, what arrangements does the Commission have in place to monitor and audit the use of projects financed under the European Regional Development Fund in relation to respect for the EU's values and the fundamental rights of European citizens?
2. What steps will the Commission take to remedy the serious shortcomings described above and guarantee that European funds are used to promote rather than undermine cooperation between states which share a common border?